

Electronic Message Received

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CaseFullRef : APP/20/00441

Location : Land west of, Hulbert Road, Havant

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Online Comment

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Representation: OBJ

Comment: Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) do not support the proposals submitted within this application for the development of up to 120 dwellings on the land west of Hulbert Road.

Following a review of our estate, HFRS have been actively seeking options to relocate resources within the Havant area. The land west of Hulbert Road was identified as a key strategic location which benefits from excellent access to the A3M, Havant and Waterlooville. As a result of this, the whole site was subsequently "ringfenced" for this purpose by Havant Borough Council in a jointly-signed Statement of Common Ground in October 2019 and included in the local plan.

Fire and rescue service response and the location of resources is determined by local and national risk profiling. This profiling is based on the physical location and assessment of risk (such as less mobile communities, high risk industries, road networks and density of urbanisation). As these factors change within a geographical area (such as Havant Borough) the location of suitable resources may also need to be adapted to ensure efficient response is maintained.

This land provided the only opportunity for a combined emergency services hub within the area. The site is close to the strategic road network, ideally located within the borough of Havant in the A3(M) corridor which optimises response times to incidents. A key action arising from the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan was that the HBLP 2036 should identify and allocate a site for a new fire station, including potential for combined facilities with the police and ambulance services of two acres (equivalent to 0.8 hectares), within the A3(M) corridor.

A number of exciting opportunities could have been unlocked had this site been developed by HFRS working with the Landowner, including possible co-location with other blue-light or public sector partners and therefore improving efficiencies of public-owned land in the area.

HFRS have worked collaboratively with other partner agencies who would have relocated to this site alongside the fire service and have proactively engaged with the Landowner with proposals to combine a joint emergency service hub at this site, alongside housing units. This would have achieved the critical infrastructure needed within the area and provided housing within the Borough. This combined proposal would also have seen the option for a commercial/retail unit on the land occupied by the fire service, supporting a community in this area.

Therefore, HFRS are unable to support this application which does not provide a location for critical emergency service facilities and is solely for housing provision. We feel a combined housing and emergency service proposal would present a preferred option for the site and for the communities within the vicinity.